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NEWS RELEASE

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\$215 MILLION POWERBALL JACKPOT UP FOR GRABS

BISMARCK – There could be a “feeding frenzy” at North Dakota Lottery retail locations. That’s what typically happens when the Powerball jackpot gets as high as \$215 million.

“This is the largest Powerball jackpot since our lottery began sales on March 25,” said Eileen Walsh, North Dakota Lottery marketing specialist. The last major Powerball jackpot was \$213.2 million and it was won on May 8. The highest Powerball jackpot was \$314.9 million which was hit on December 25, 2002.

The current Powerball jackpot run began on Wednesday, August 18. The drawing on Saturday will be the 16th consecutive draw of this jackpot run. “Almost 50,000 winning tickets have been sold in North Dakota since the run began,” Walsh said. “This amounts to over \$417,000 in prizes and more than \$2.2 million in sales for this time period,” she added.

Powerball tickets are sold in 27 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The combined sales total for this jackpot run is more than \$337 million. It is expected that close to \$64 million tickets will be sold for Saturday’s drawing. Tickets are currently selling at an approximate rate of \$1.2 million per hour which equals close to \$20,000 per minute.

Besides being the largest lottery jackpot currently offered in the world, the \$215 million jackpot would also be the sixth largest Powerball jackpot ever won. “Naturally we want someone or a group in North Dakota to win. We always do,” Walsh said. “But we want to remind players that all our Lottery games are for fun and to play responsibly with money they would normally use for entertainment,” she said.

Since January 1, the Powerball jackpot has been awarded 7 times. There has not been a Powerball jackpot winner in North Dakota.

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